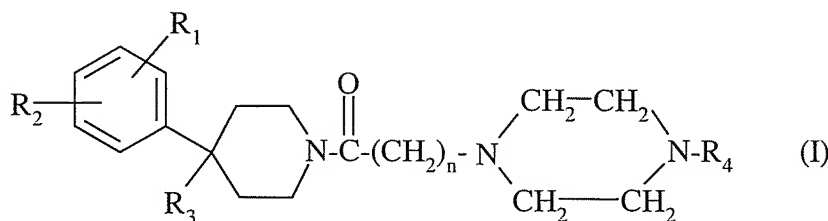


**Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

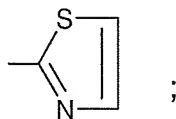
The claims set forth below with amendments as indicated will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A compound of formula (I):



in which:

- n is 1 or 2;
- R<sub>1</sub> represents a halogen atom; a trifluoromethyl radical; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy; or a trifluoromethoxy radical;
- R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;
- R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; a group -OR<sub>5</sub>; a group -CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>5</sub>; a group -NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>; a group -NR<sub>8</sub>COR<sub>9</sub>; a group -NR<sub>8</sub>CONR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>; a group -CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub>; a group -CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>8</sub>CONR<sub>14</sub>R<sub>15</sub>; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl; or a group -CONR<sub>16</sub>R<sub>17</sub>;
- or else R<sub>3</sub> constitutes a double bond between the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;
- R<sub>4</sub> represents the aromatic group 1,3-thiazol-2-yl of formula:



- R<sub>5</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl; or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylcarbonyl;
- R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

- R<sub>8</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;
  - R<sub>9</sub> represents a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl or a group -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>;
  - m is 1, 2 or 3;
  - R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;
  - R<sub>12</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>)alkyl;
  - R<sub>13</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>)alkyl, a group -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-OH or a group -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-S-CH<sub>3</sub>;
  - or else R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, constitute a heterocycle selected from aziridine, azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine and morpholine;
  - q is 2 or 3;
  - R<sub>14</sub> and R<sub>15</sub> represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;
  - R<sub>16</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;
  - R<sub>17</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl or a group -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>;
  - or else R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, constitute a heterocycle selected from azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, morpholine and piperazine which is unsubstituted or substituted in position 4 by a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;
- or an acid addition salt ~~hydrate or solvate~~ thereof.

Claim 2. (Previously presented): A compound according to Claim 1 wherein:

- n is 1;
- R<sub>1</sub> is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical, a methyl, a methoxy or a trifluoromethoxy radical and R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; or else R<sub>1</sub> is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical and R<sub>2</sub> is in position 4 of the phenyl and represents a chlorine atom; and
- R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydroxyl, a methoxy, an aminomethyl, a (methylamino)methyl, or a (dimethylamino)methyl; or else R<sub>3</sub> constitutes a double bond between

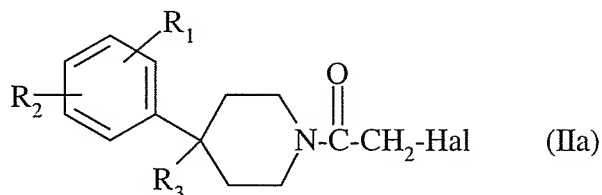
the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;

- R<sub>4</sub> represents a 1,3-thiazol-2-yl.

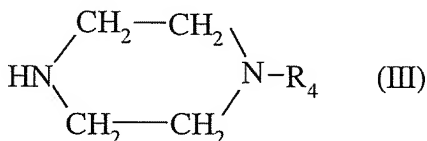
Claim 3. (Currently amended): A process for preparing a compound according to

Claim 1

wherein a compound of formula (IIa)



in which R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are as defined in Claim 1 and Hal represents a halogen atom, ~~with the proviso that when R<sub>3</sub> contains a hydroxyl or amine function these functions may be protected,~~ is reacted with a compound of formula (III)



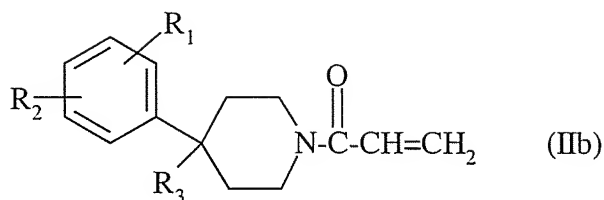
in which R<sub>4</sub> is as defined in Claim 1;

~~and deprotection of the hydroxyl or amine functions present in R<sub>3</sub> where appropriate.~~

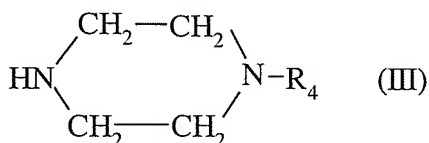
Claim 4. (Currently amended): A process for preparing a compound according to

Claim 1 in which n = 2

wherein a compound of formula (IIIb)

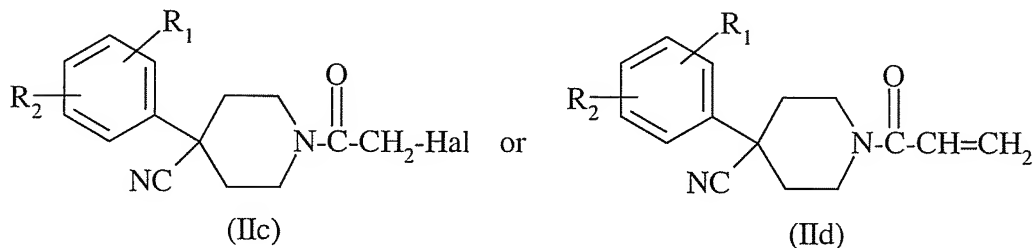


in which  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are as defined in Claim 1, ~~with the proviso that when  $R_3$  contains a hydroxyl or amine function these functions may be protected,~~ is reacted with a compound of formula (III)

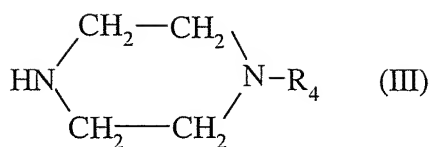


in which  $R_4$  is as defined in Claim 1;  
~~and deprotection of the hydroxyl or amine functions present in  $R_3$  where appropriate.~~

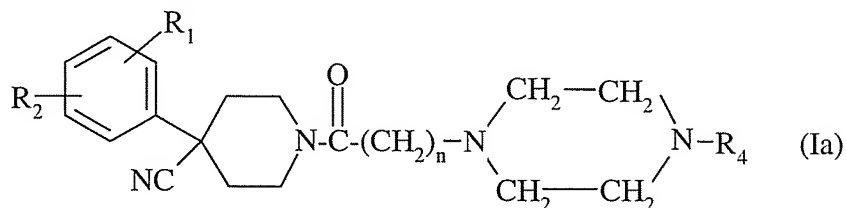
Claim 5. (Previously presented): A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 1 in which  $R_3$  represents a group  $-\text{CH}_2\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$  in which  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  each represent hydrogen wherein a compound of formula (IIc) or (IId)



in which  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are as defined in Claim 1 and Hal represents a halogen atom, is reacted with a compound of formula (III)

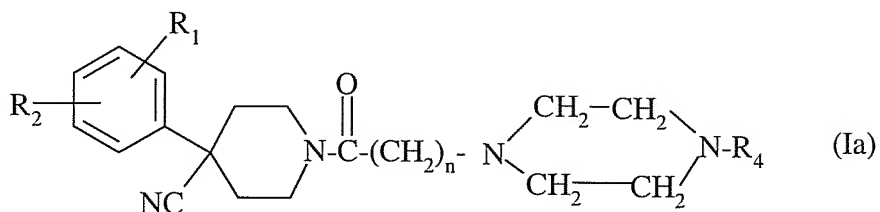


in which R<sub>4</sub> is as defined in Claim 1 to give a compound of formula (Ia)



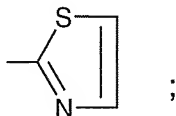
and the cyano group of the compound of formula (Ia) is reduced.

Claim 6. (Currently amended): A compound of formula



in which:

- n is 1 or 2;
- R<sub>1</sub> represents a halogen atom; a trifluoromethyl radical; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy; or a trifluoromethoxy radical;
- R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; and
- R<sub>4</sub> represents the aromatic group 1,3-thiazol-2-yl of formula:



or an acid addition salt ~~hydrate or solvate~~ thereof.

Claims 7 - 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- 1-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-[4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-1-(2*H*)-pyridinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-(aminomethyl)-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-[4-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-hydroxy-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-hydroxy-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-hydroxy-4-(3-methylphenyl)-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-methoxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-[(methylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;

or an acid addition salt, ~~hydrate or solvate~~ thereof.

Claim 11. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Application Ser. No.: 10/516,808  
Filing Date: December 3, 2004  
Examiner: Leaser, Erich A.

Claim 12. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 2 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 13. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 10 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 14. - 16 (Canceled)